

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /133 W
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R 231114Z MAR 74

FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0278

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, AG

SUBJ: FIRST DAY OF JOBERT'S VISIT TO ALGIERS

1. DURING JOBERT'S FIRST DAY IN ALGIERS HE BEGAN
TALKS WITH ALGERIAN FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA AND HAD SEPARATE
MEETINGS WITH MINISTER FINANCE MAHROUG AND MINISTER
INDUSTRY ABDESSELAM.

2. ALGERIANS HAVE GONE OUT OF WAY TO EXTEND COURTESIES,
WITH ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT AIRPORT AND
PARTICULARLY LAVISH FOOD AND DRINK AT BOUTEFLIKA'S
DINNER MARCH 22.

3. JOBERT HAS APPEARED VERY RELAXED AND GAVE HIS AFTER
DINNER SPEECH EXTEMPORANEOUSLY AFTER BOUTEFLIKA HAD
READ FROM PREPARED TEXT. BOUTEFLIKA'S SPEECH WAS MODERATE
BY LOCAL STANDARDS BUT HE REFERRED TO "U.S. EFFORTS
TO PERPETUATE POLICY OF HEGEMONY" WITHIN CONTEXT
WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. JOBERT DID NOT TAKE
UP THIS THEME IN HIS SPEECH OR IN REPLIES TO POINTED
PRESS QUESTIONING.

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RM IN FACT JOBERT'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS APPEARED

EXTREMELY MEASURED WITH NO ATTEMPT TO GENERATE EUPHORIA OVER POSSIBILITIES FOR FRENCH-ALGERIAN RELATIONSHIPS. IN HIS SPEECH JOBERT REFERRED TO EUROPEAN-ARAB CONFERENCE AS A "PROJECT WHOSE TIME HAS COME" BUT HE WARNED, AS HE DID IN PRESS CONFERENCE EARLIER, THAT MUCH PREPARATION IS NECESSARY.

5. WITHOUT EXCESSIVE ENTHUSIASM JOBERT INDICATED INTEREST IN ALGERIAN INITIATIVE FOR SPECIAL SESSION UNGA. HE CONCLUDED THAT FRENCH AND ALGERIAN EFFORTS IN THIS DOMAIN COULD TAKE A PATH EITHER PARALLEL OR IN SOLIDARITY "AS LONG AS WE CAN".

6. JOBERT VISIT WILL END MARCH 23 PRESUMABLY AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE WHO SHOULD BE RETURNING FROM TUNISIA DURING COURSE OF DAY.
EAGLETON

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